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25X1

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28 July 1967

25X1

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

Nigeria: Federal campaign in the south is making progress. (Page 5)

France - East Germany: Paris may set up trade mission. (Page 6)

Suez Canal: Another impasse (Page 7)

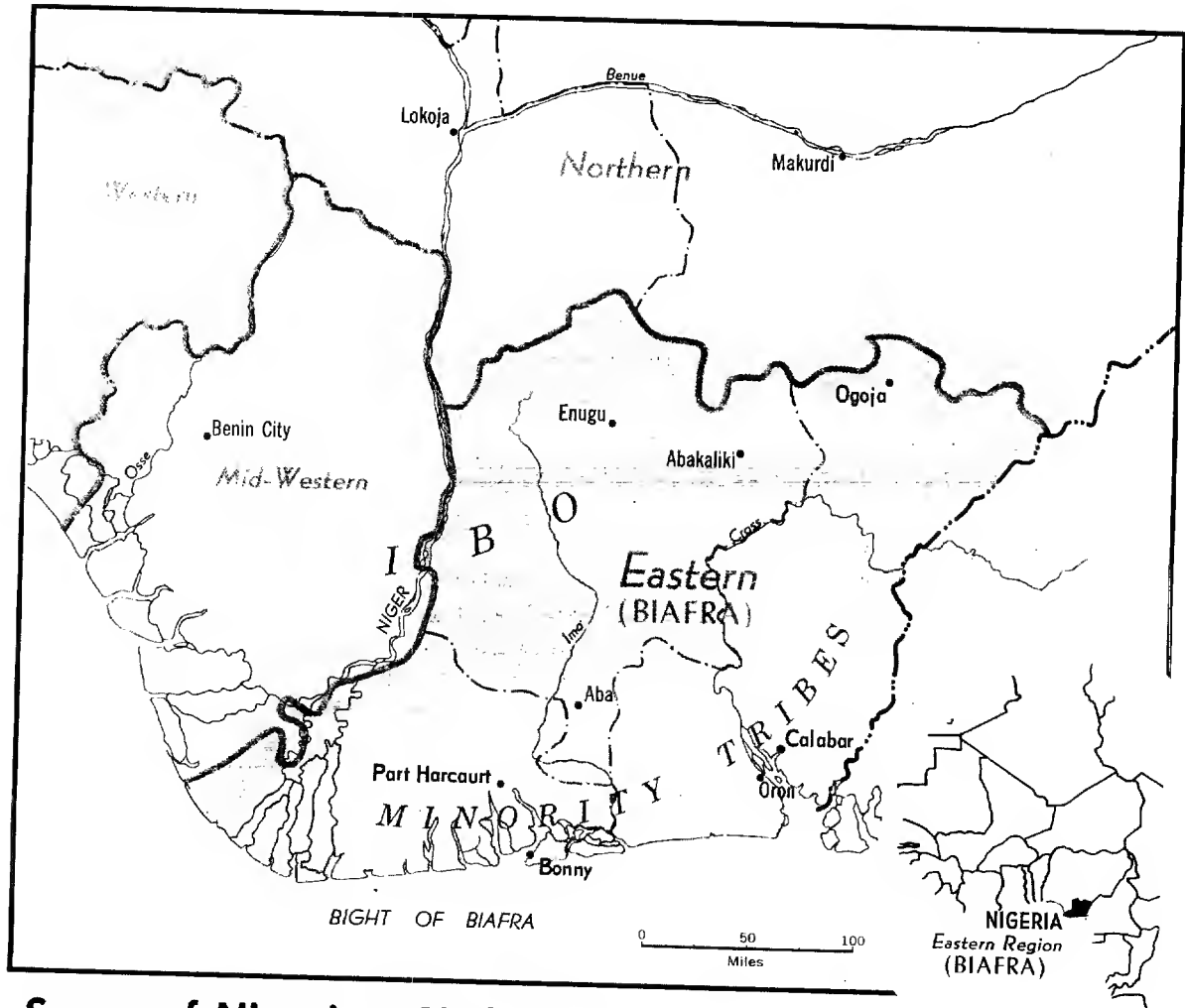
Cyprus: New fighting looms (Page 7)

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010100230001-3

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Scene of Nigerian Civil War

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--- Boundary of former region
—— New state boundary decreed by Gowon

Nigeria: The federal campaign in the south is going well.

On 25 July a federal amphibious force took the important oil terminal of Bonny at the entrance to the ship channel leading to Port Harcourt, Biafra's largest port. The seizure of Bonny reduces the need to maintain a naval blockade and establishes a base from which to extend federal operations along the coast and inland toward Port Harcourt.

It seems likely that one of the next federal objectives will be Calabar, the main town in a minority tribal area which has long resented rule by the Ibos, the dominant tribe in Biafra. Occupation in force of Calabar, which is probably defended by about one battalion, would also increase the potential for an eventual linkup with federal forces in Ogoja to the north. [REDACTED]

28 Jul 67

5

25X1

France - East Germany: The French Government may establish some form of official commercial representation in East Germany.



25X1

Paris would probably represent the establishment of such a mission as advancing the detente in Europe. The French would stress the distinction between diplomatic recognition [redacted] and establishment of a trade mission. In addition to promoting France's political objectives as envisioned by De Gaulle, Paris is determined to increase its share of the East German market.

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Such a move by France would cause considerable displeasure in West Germany, and it may be construed as support for a separate East Germany. Bonn has long argued that it alone should take the first steps to improve relations with East Germany.

The East German regime would view the establishment of a French mission as a major breakthrough in its long quest for international acceptance. [redacted]

25X1

28 Jul 67

6

25X1

NOTES

Suez Canal: Cairo's refusal to agree to mutual Egyptian-Israeli abstention from military activities on the canal has resulted in an Israeli refusal to let Egypt resupply ships stranded in the waterway. General Bull, in his report to UN headquarters on his meeting on 26 July with Israeli Defense Minister Dayan, said Dayan had been "extremely firm" on this point. The dispute over the location of the cease-fire line--through the middle of the canal, as Israel maintains, or along the east bank--also remains unresolved.

[REDACTED]

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Cyprus: Intercommunal tensions are threatening to erupt once again into serious fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Greek Cypriot Interior and Defense Minister Georkatzis says that he has failed to calm tensions which have arisen over recent murders in each community and over the alleged capture by the Turkish Cypriots of a Greek Cypriot National Guardsman. Georkatzis said local leaders appear to be intent on resolving the situation in their own way--by more killings.

[REDACTED]

25X1

28 Jul 67

7

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